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(54) Title: WATER-BASED METAL TREATMENT COMPOSITION

(57) Abstract: Disclosed for use in treating a metal, e.g., an alloy of silver as aforesaid, is a water-based composition comprising a treatment agent selected from an alkanethiol, alkyl thioglycollate, dialkyl sulfide or dialkyl disulfide and at least one of an amphoteric, nonionic or cationic surfactant in a concentration that is effective to solubilise the treatment agent. Preferably the composition comprises at least a non-ionic relatively hydrophobic surfactant e.g. cocamide DEA. The composition is particularly suitable for the treatment of Ag-Cu-Ge alloys.

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